



**Minutes of the Perry County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
2:00 p.m. – Friday, November 17, 2017  
County Board Room – Perry County Government Building**

A regular meeting of the Perry County Board of Commissioners was convened at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 17, 2017 in the County Board Room at the Perry County Government Building in the City of Pinckneyville.

**OPENING**

Chairman Epplin called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited by those in attendance.

County Clerk Josh Gross called the roll. The following members answered the call of the roll: Chairman Epplin, Commissioner Kelly and Commissioner Bigham. The following department heads were also present: State's Attorney David Searby, Treasurer Mary Jane Craft, Solid Waste Director Becky Tracy, Assessor Becky Winter, and Sheriff Steve Bareis.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Epplin asked for the minutes of the November 2, 2017 regular Board of Commissioners meeting, be approved. Chairman Epplin called for corrections. There were none.

Commissioner Bigham moved the minutes of the November 2, 2017 regular Board of Commissioners meeting, be approved. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Epplin called for additions or deletions to the meeting agenda. Executive Session was added.

Commissioner Bigham moved the agenda for the meeting be approved. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved as amended.

**ORDINANCE: APPROVING 2018 COUNTY BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS**

Clerk Gross addressed the County Board in regards to the standing of the 2018 Fiscal year budget. He stated that he is incredibly proud of the work put into this budget by all the department heads and elected officials as well as the guidance by the County Board. The General fund portion of the budget which began with a deficit of 547,000 was finalized close to balanced. It was passed with a deficit of \$18,000. The county was able to do this through a number of changes. First, we added revenue to the Federal inmate housing program to show the excellent work completed by Sheriff Bareis and his team. Second all department heads were tasked with the goal of cutting their budgets to 2017 numbers. Many reached that goal and some even exceeded that goal. Finally, Perry County made personnel changes by laying off three full time positions. There is hope that those individuals can be brought back at some time during the calendar year however no guarantees were made. The way the numbers currently stand:

That the annual budget for the Fiscal Year 2018 for the County of Perry in the State of Illinois beginning December 1, 2017 and ending November 30, 2018, which has been conveniently available for public inspection for at least fifteen (15) days prior to final action thereon, hereinafter set forth, contains a statement of expected revenues and expenditures in the fiscal year beginning December 1, 2017, a statement of all monies in the County Treasury or in any fund thereof which are unexpended, estimation of all probable income from taxes, fees, and all other sources, a detailed statement of estimated expenditures for fiscal year 2018, and a schedule of proposed appropriations for Fiscal Year 2018.

The bottom line number is \$11,107,186; this includes all expenses incurred in Perry County. The Perry County Board controls the General Corporate Fund

accounts which total \$5,060,193. The additional funds managed by their own boards and in many cases, set up by state statute include: General Assistance, Animal Control, 911, Mental Health, County Roads, Youth Court, etc. These funds are generated by individual levies or fees charged by these departments. This information as well as the full budget will be available on the Perry County Clerk's website in the coming days.

Commissioner Kelly moved that Ordinance 2017-04, an Ordinance Setting the Annual Budget and Appropriations for the Fiscal Year Beginning December 1, 2017 and Ending November 30, 2018, be approved. Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Bigham, Commissioner Kelly, and Chairman Epplin. The motion passed on a vote of 3-0 and the ordinance adopted.

**ORDINANCE: APPROVING 2018 UNIT ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS**

The 2018 Unit Road District Budget has total Revenue of \$1,062,268 and total expenditures of \$1,062,081.

Commissioner Bigham moved that Ordinance 2017-05, an Ordinance Approving Unit Road District Budget and Setting Forth Appropriations for the Fiscal Year Beginning December 1, 2017 and Ending November 30, 2018, be approved. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Bigham, Commissioner Kelly, and Chairman Epplin. The motion passed on a vote of 3-0 and the ordinance adopted.

**RESOLUTION – APPROVE QUARTERLY REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR ROE**

Regional Superintendent of Schools Cheryl Graff addressed the county board to update them on the activities of the Regional Office of Education for the past quarter. Mrs. Graff educated those in attendance about the activities her office has been implementing for the past three months. The largest improvement is that all offices will now conduct finger printing for their residents. This eliminates the need to drive to Jackson County for this service. The office is now focused on Professional Development and will continue to make that a priority and do their best to be a resource for the local districts.

Commissioner Kelly moved that Resolution 2017-136, a resolution approving the quarterly report of activities for Regional Office of Education, be approved. Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Kelly, Commissioner Bigham, and Chairman Epplin. The motion passed on a vote of 3-0 and the resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION – APPROVE PROCLAMATION ANNOUNCING DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> ILLINOIS BI-CENTENIAL CELEBRATION**

Chairman Epplin spoke to the board about the upcoming December 4<sup>th</sup> ceremonies for the Illinois Bi-Centennial Celebration. Perry County appointed Mary Roe to be our liaison with Springfield. She has done a fantastic job getting everything in place. The Pinckneyville High School Chorus will be singing and Circuit Clerk Kim Kellerman will be the Keynote speaker. All are invited from the public and private sector. We hope to have a large turnout.

Commissioner Bigham moved that Resolution 2017-137, a resolution approving the Proclamation announcing December 4<sup>th</sup> Illinois Bi-Centennial Celebration, be adopted. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Kelly, Commissioner Bigham, and Chairman Epplin. The motion passed on a vote of 3-0 and the resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION – APPROVE SPECIAL USE PERMIT (1)**

Zoning Director Becky Tracy presented the board with an application for a Special Use Permit and recommendation to approve. This SUP is to place a new mobile home.

- Debra K Smith – (SUP-17-08)

Commissioner Bigham moved that Resolution 2017-138, a resolution approving a Special Use Permit, be approved. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Chairman Epplin, Commissioner Kelly, and Commissioner Bigham. The motion was approved on a vote of 3-0 and the resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION – APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR MAINTENANCE UNDER THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CODE**

Engineer Otten addressed the board letting them know that this is our annual agreement between IDOT and Perry County. This form is completed once the annual budget is approved and puts everything in place allowing for proper maintenance to be completed on Perry County Highways.

Commissioner Bigham moved that Resolution 2017-139, resolution approving maintenance under the Illinois Highway Code, be approved. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Bigham, Commissioner Kelly, and Chairman Epplin. The motion passed on a vote of 3-0 and the resolution adopted.

## **DISCUSSION**

1. **David Houston** – Mr. Houston addressed the board in response to the recent budget cuts and his concerns for public safety. He is concerned that the layoffs reduce the amount of police coverage to unsafe levels. Mr. Houston began citing his recent editorial in the Pinckneyville Press. He stressed that it should be the last thing cut from a budget. He touched on some specific consequences from these layoffs. He is worried about loss of talent, burnout of specific deputies, unsafe conditions, and taking advantage of mutual aid districts and departments. He also views this as an issue linked to his own concerns with board of review. He is curious why the board is willing to pay board of review while cutting salaries of deputies. Clerk Gross then addressed Mr. Houston to address his concerns and his recent editorial article. Clerk Gross presented Mr. Houston with a number of questions about current Perry County finances that he was unable to answer. Clerk Gross continued by stating that he was offended by the recent article and he stressed that these decisions to lay off county employees were not taken lightly. Clerk Gross stressed that the board would get compensated if they take seats on board of review. Mr. Houston asked Mr. Gross if he has read the statute he is citing. Clerk Gross stated that he has not at which time Mr. Houston began to read the statute stating that the board of review managed by the Board of Commissioners would not receive payment. Clerk Gross responded by saying that yes, the statute states that, but that those commissioners would be compensated for their time and duties just like anyone would be expected to be compensated. Mr. Houston asked if he could continue his comments and was given two more minutes. He challenged the board to go back to the budget and look at other options for cost savings. Commissioner Bigham stated that he knows all the deputies involved and considers them all friends and that this was a difficult decision for him. Commissioner Epplin referred to a recent study he was made aware of that shows population of St Clair county broken down by the number of deputies, verses population and that they have 5000 residents for every deputy on duty. Mr. Houston replied that crime does not only happen in larger populated counties. Clerk Gross then stated that we appreciate you input and if you would like to use your expertise to assist Sheriff Bareis with his scheduling concerns to feel free and contact him.

## **COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Kelly moved the Board recess to executive session,

- To discuss “collective negotiating matters” per 5 ILCS 120 2(c)(2)

Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Kelly, Commissioner Bigham and Chairman Epplin. The motion passed on a vote of 3-0 and the board entered executive session at 2:26 p.m.

Commissioner Bigham moved the Board close the executive session meeting and re-enter regular session. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved and the Board re-entered regular session at 2:57 p.m.

### **PAYMENT OF CLAIMS**

Board members examined claims presented for payment. The Board agreed to pay all bills as presented.

Commissioner Kelly moved that all claims against the General Corporate Fund and all claims against special purpose funds, be approved (see attached), with General Corporate Fund expenses to be prioritized according to policy. Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Bigham, Commissioner Kelly, and

Chairman Eplin. The motion was approved on a vote of 3-0 and payment warrants were granted.

**ADJOURNMENT OF FALL QUARTER MEETING**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Chairman said he would entertain a motion to adjourn and re-convene the Fall Quarter meeting at 2 p.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2017.

Commissioner Kelly moved the Board adjourn and re-convene the Fall Quarter meeting at 2 p.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2017. Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved and the Board stood adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Submitted:

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**JOSH GROSS, County Clerk**  
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners  
County of Perry, State of Illinois  
Approved: December 7, 2017